

**PATENT**

Atty Docket No.: 70006393-1

App. Ser. No.: 09/943,027

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks.

By virtue of the amendments above, Claims 4 and 5 have been amended and Claims 1-3 and 8-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, Claims 4-7 are pending in the present application, of which Claim 4 is independent.

No new matter has been introduced by way of the claim amendments; entry thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Official Action mailed on October 12, 2007 indicated that Claims 4-7 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By virtue of the amendments above, Claim 4 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the features of Claims 1-3, which have now been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The amendments to Claims 4 and 5 were originally presented in the Response to Office Action filed on November 5, 2007. In the Advisory Action mailed on November 26, 2007, the Examiner, however, indicated that these amendments were not entered. As discussed during a teleconference with the undersigned on December 19, 2007, the Examiner indicated that the claim amendments were not entered on the alleged basis that Claims 4 and 11 are directed to two different inventions. Although the Applicants respectfully disagree

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with this assertion, Claims 11-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein to further speedy prosecution of this application.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the claim amendments presented herein and to allow the present application.

**Telephone Interview with Examiner**

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Vig for his courtesies during the telephone interview conducted on December 19, 2007. During that interview, the Examiner asserted that Claims 4-7 would be entered and allowed, following an updated search, if Claims 11-16 were canceled. By virtue of the amendments above, Claims 11-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue an early indication that this application is allowable over the cited documents of record.

**Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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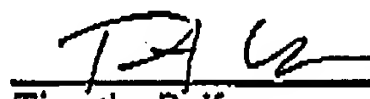
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Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 21, 2007

By



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